

George Brown News

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

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Erik Simundson, who has worked with students for 33 years in George Brown's Centre for Construction and Engineering Technologies, was named 2007 Educator of the Year by the Provincial Association of Technologists.

Simundson named Outstanding Educator

Erik Simundson, a Technologist in the Centre for Construction and Engineering Technologies, has been selected by the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technologists and Technicians (OACETT) as Outstanding Educator for 2007.

Simundson has had a very positive influence on students in his 33 years with GBC, said John Wills, Acting Director of the George Brown School of Construction Management and Trades. "Erik has demonstrated a dedicated, disciplined approach to his students which has reinforced our longstanding belief in him as an outstanding educator. Erik always strives to ensure that each student understands the current practices within industry. Whether teaching land surveying in the field, or building materials and science in the lab, he has demonstrated an expertise that results in quality performances by his students.

George Brown is now building its applied research capacity

by Robert Luke

Ontario colleges, including George Brown, are opening applied research offices in direct response to faculty interest and a demand for research support. The applied research offices represent a recognition that the unique and close ties colleges have with industry offer excellent incubators for building and testing prototypes, demonstrating proof-of-principle projects, expanding market opportunities for companies, and carrying out laboratory testing or field studies that have application potential. This is an exciting opportunity to help build research capacity at George Brown.

In May 2006 the Association of Canadian Community Colleges published the "Applied

Research at Canadian Colleges and Institutes" report, which concludes that colleges need to "develop education and training programs to meet employer needs with direct input from business, industry and community partner organizations. Colleges' and institutes' role in applied research, development and commercialization is reflective of this mandate and is an extension of institutions' collaboration and partnerships with business, industry and community partners."

Applied research is about solving problems and generating ideas for immediate and real-world applications, whether for the marketplace, or teaching and learning. The college setting, with our close connections to

(continued on page 2)



FASHION AT CASA LOMA: The eyes are on student Kayla Kew as she models a satin evening gown designed by Rebecca Murphy at George Brown's annual fashion show on April 26. For the first time models sauntered through the elegant rooms of Casa Loma rather than strutting down the catwalk. Guests were able to sip drinks and nibble hors d'oeuvres during the hour-long show. Over 200 fashion pieces, representing the work of over 100 students, were viewed by 300 plus guests.

Applied research

(continued from page 1)

industry partners, offers a nimble environment for applied research. This means that the pace of innovation can swiftly move projects from mind to market.

GBC's strategic plan for applied research focuses on encouraging research projects that develop new and enhanced products and processes, industrial research partnerships, and links into teaching and learning. This last point is a key facet of our work. We want to encourage and engage students in sponsored, applied research projects.

George Brown's Office of Applied Research and Innovation was established to answer the call for a more focused strategy, as the College moves toward supporting applied research in general.

Our faculty are already engaged in many exciting applied research projects. My team's role is to work with interested faculty in devising and conducting applied research projects. Faculty will be given the support and services needed to find and secure funding opportunities, work with industrial partners to build our applied research community and capacity.

The Internet will be a key feature of our communication plan. We are using so-called web 2.0 technology to communicate, collaborate and share information. One example of this is a blog (<http://applied-research.blogspot.com/>) and a del.icio.us bookmarks page (<http://del.icio.us/GBCresearch>). Such social networking offers us key advantages, as we map and match expertise, for peer support and mentorship, and for industrial research partnerships.

George Brown is also part of Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII), a consortium of eight Ontario Colleges offering a research cluster partnership model that is designed to strengthen point-of-access for industry. CONII is busy establishing a database of researchers and their expertise.

On 15 May, we're hosting "Applied Research 101," an event to introduce the services of the Office of Applied Research and Innovation to faculty. We'll also showcase some of the innovative projects already underway at the College, such as our unique industrial and academic partnerships in engineering technology, the work investigating emotional intelligence, digital literacy learning modules for breast cancer survivors, the Compliments Culinary Centre, and the Institute without Boundaries.

Robert Luke is the new Director of George Brown's Office of Applied Research and Innovation



CLEANING UP AT CASA LOMA — Human Resources staffers (from left) Bob Cox, Marianna Poliochio, Chris Kane, and Monica Chiang proudly display the trash they picked up in the parking lot across from 500 MacPherson Ave. as part of the city-wide clean up campaign on April 20. The HR crew (which included HR Executive Director Nancy Hood) hauled tires, boards, and a case of smelly food containers (marked venison ossobucco) out of the parking lot.



TWICE A GRADUATE — Joe Rodrigues (left) proudly shows off the certificate he was given in a ceremony on May 10 for completing a George Brown training program for employees of Canada Post. With him is Bob Marchmont, Supervisor of Technical Services at the mammoth Gateway Postal Facility in Mississauga. This is the second graduation from George Brown for Rodrigues - he took an Electronics program at the College in 1990 that got him started in what has become a successful 27-year career at Canada Post. Did it feel funny to be back at George Brown? "At first I thought there would be a lot of changes, but then I realized that the students are the same," says Rodrigues. In all, 14 students were presented with certificates on May 10 for completing the innovative 4-year program. The program, developed and supported by both Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, upgrades the technical skills of workers allowing them to move into new positions.

ECE grad wins Harry Jerome Award

Early Childhood Education graduate Tolu Quadri is the winner of this year's Harry Jerome Youth Leadership Award.

The award was presented to Quadri, now a child care professional in Toronto, at the Harry Jerome Awards Gala in Toronto in April, a yearly event celebrating the achievements of the Black community in Canada.

Quadri graduated from George Brown College in 2006. As a student, she participated in the School of Early Childhood's Jamaica project, a Canadian International Development Agency funded project that has, for the past four years, sent students to aid in the enhancement of early childhood education in the Caribbean nation.

Quadri also took part in our post-graduate program in China, where students participated in an International Kindergarten Program in Suzhou, a city in eastern China. The daughter of Jamaican parents, Quadri is one of three sisters to have graduated from the George Brown School of Early Childhood.

"It is a great honor to receive a Harry Jerome Award for Leadership.

Harry Jerome truly exemplified excellence as a man who persevered through countless struggles in his lifetime to find success, contributed to his community and paved the way for others," says Quadri. "George Brown College and the ECE program was a window of opportunity for me that allowed me to seek new opportunities and excel in my efforts to help families and young children function as best as they can in their social environments."

"While studying at George Brown and taking part in our intensive work-study programs, it was quite evident that she was a natural-born leader," said Lynn Wilson, a faculty member with the George Brown School of Early Childhood. "We are extremely proud of Tolu's achievements and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours."



INTEGRATED STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE OPENS — Casa Loma Campus's Integrated Student Service Centre was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting on April 16. On hand were (from left) Student Affairs Executive Director Susan Stylianos, Director of Student Support Services Kim Vance, Registrar Sharon Kinasz, Director of Community Partnerships Brenda Pipitone, and Student Services and Campus Life Director Wayne Poirier. Pipitone and Poirier formerly headed the Student Lifecycle project that developed the concept for Integrated Student Service Centres, which unites a wide variety of student services to save students time and frustration.

Health Dean to co-chair Education Council

Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, George Brown's Dean of the Centre for Health Sciences and the Centre for Community Services and Early Childhood, has been appointed co-chair of the new Education and Research Council of the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Toronto Central LHIN has identified education and research as one of nine areas of focus for its 2007-2010 Integrated Health Service Plan.

Shekter-Wolfson will work with co-chair Dr. Robert Bell, CEO of the University Health Network, to lead the implementation of this integration priority.

"Lorie is a seasoned executive who has delivered tremendous value in transforming our approach to health sciences programming to better meet the evolving needs of the health-care system," says George Brown President Anne Sado. "Lorie's appointment demonstrates Toronto Central LHIN's commitment to draw on community expertise to deliver better integrated health care to Ontarians."

Shekter-Wolfson is responsible for the largest academic division in the college, with its more than 4,500 full-time students. She has been a member of the College's senior management team since joining George Brown in 2002, and is currently leading an interprofessional-focused learning strategy in support of the health-care sector's evolution to adopting a more collaborative, team-based approach to patient care.

"Lorie Shekter-Wolfson has a wealth of leader-

ship experience, running a forward-thinking and successful college faculty," says Laura Pisko-Bezruchko, Senior Director, Planning, Integration and Community Engagement, Toronto Central LHIN. "She is a systems thinker who embraces our shared vision of leveraging education and research to create innovation, and to support sustainability of the evolving health-care system."

Shekter-Wolfson has extensive experience as a practitioner, administrator, consultant and educator in the health-care system. She is a social worker who, for many years, worked as Director of Social Work and Multicultural Health at the University Health Network. She has worked for the Ontario government's Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, leading the restructuring process for the province's private hospitals as well as a project for the Ministry of Government Services. She has also worked as a private consultant managing projects in the health-care system.

The author of several articles on social work and clinical education, Shekter-Wolfson has also written two books relating to eating disorders and marital and family therapy. She also sits on Health Canada's Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centered Practice (IECP) National Expert Committee, is the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Association of Allied Health Programs and is an executive on the "Heads of Health Sciences" for the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario.



SOCCER TEAM BRINGS HOME GOLD – The Men's Huskies Indoor Soccer Team won the gold medal in the Ontario championships in April defeating the six-time champion Humber Hawks 2-1 in overtime. George Brown's Richard Khwan was named tournament MVP. It was the second time that coach Lucky Boothe tasted victory on the indoor soccer pitch – he was a player on the George Brown team the last time it won the gold medal in 1989/90. The other gold medal performance in interspersed sport this year was by Marla Henderson in alpine skiing. The College also picked up silver medals in golf, alpine skiing, and bronze medals in badminton and outdoor soccer.

President Anne Sado Q & A

Q: What are the plans for facilities upgrades at GBC this summer?

You've probably all noticed there is a great deal of work underway at the College already. We're renovating existing spaces, adding new, and investing in, classroom equipment in support of our Academic Strategy.

We can be grateful to the provincial government for supporting GBC with an allocation of \$8.4 million—our part of a \$105 million infrastructure fund from the federal government. We are very pleased that the province ensured this money is being used as intended — to support postsecondary education.

The additional money will allow us to invest in much needed infrastructure upgrades, including deferred maintenance. Planned expenditures include roof repairs, new air handling systems, and the ongoing foundation

work at 200 King Street East. The additional funds also mean we can complete more washroom upgrades. As well, we can add to the GBC student experience by responding to student complaints, and completing the much needed upgrades to the lockers and change rooms at the student athletics centre at St. James.

More than \$3 million of the new capital program funds coming to GBC will also work to promote the Academic Strategy's supporting strategy of improving the systems and processes that underpin academic excellence. Among the work to be completed over the next year is the completion of 65 more Smart classrooms and labs, adding to the 39 we were able to do last year. This fall will mark the launch of the School of Emergency Management, and new labs and classrooms (with state-of-the-art simulation equipment) are being built in the basement of "E" building at Casa Loma to

house those programs. Apprenticeship labs are being expanded and improved at 300 Adelaide, and a "wet" science lab added at Casa Loma. And finally, an overall upgrade of much of the classroom and office space is now underway at 300 Adelaide.

On top of this spending, there are our budgeted strategic initiatives planned for infrastructure spending this year. For example, we are buying new classroom and common area furniture in several areas. And feedback from faculty has identified dissatisfaction with the current classroom "consoles"—the control panels located in classrooms. These have been redesigned for easier use, and 40 units, about one third of the total number of consoles, will be replaced for this fall as a test pilot. Once any bugs are ironed out or changes made as a result of the pilot, the rest of the old consoles will then be replaced.

The capital funds from the province are allowing us to accelerate many initiatives— including deferred maintenance projects and supporting the values of the Academic Strategy. We have been very careful to ensure that the dollars to be spent are put to the best use and highest priorities in support of both students and staff.

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